

II

EAELY YEAKS

18*10-1860

flola in Paris —A r«lmflf and a success — Progress of Ms
canal schema
— Ho is 8tnick down by the " mistral" and dujs — His
obsequies and his
grave--• Oillkulties of his widow and son — Lawsuits — Aix,
a city of
BiliKtuu'B or of enlightenment ? — IjJmilo *Zoh*, a spoilt
child — His first
schooling and tot eluima—Ho plays the truant —
Declining family cir-
ciuniBtancoH «— *Z^lil* is sent to the Aix College — His many
prizes, and his
lirat literary attempts — The college and its musters —
Zola, Bailie, and
Cfaww*; thoir pranks and their rambles — The country
round Aix —
KM & linoB on Trovonoo — He in influenced by Hugo and
Hussot—Itlenl
lov<» ; Uratwnno and Ninon — Increasing family penury—
Madame 55olft
wwktt hislp in Paris — Bho is joined the.ro by her sou — Zola
at the Lyct'jo
Bt LOM!H-»«H« iri '*' ploughed " for a degree in Paris — His
vacations in
iWtnuw — Early ^wotry —* He is "ploughed" at
Maraoillea — His
8twU«B stopped — A gloomy outlook,

Ta"K infancy of ifemilo Zola was spent in Paris,
his father'a
enteTpriHOH compelling the family to remain
there till 1843,
Throughout 184:0 tho engineer was preparing
plans of his
fortification scheme, Issuing paniphl(its,
corresponding with
Thiera, ami Interviewing General Despans-
CubitVes, Minister
of War, Ho renewed his efforts when Tlxiers fell
from power
and was succeeded by Marshal Soult; "but he
was unable to
overcome tho stolid indifference of General
Bode, the war-
ollice director of fortifications, who, without
even examining
his plans, reported against them on, the
ground that the
government and the defence committee had
made up their

four years previously with respect to what system should be adopted. As Soult accepted this view of the matter, Zola's efforts again came to nothing. His only consolation was that, early in 1841, when the Paris fortification